

CHABROL ON VIDEO — THE REAL DRAMA OUTSIDE THE WINDOW

Orson Wells in color
wearing one of his fake noses
out front
a guy keeps pulling on the handle
of a white car
he walks around to the other door
& pulls rapidly on that handle
then he goes to the rear
& pulls on the trunk handle
round & round & round
Tony Perkins has learned
that his real parents are dead
outside that guy is still pulling
on those handles
he peers into the windows
round & round & round
a woman from the apartment next door
brings her trash down
the barrels are lined up by the white car
as she approaches
the guy crosses the street
& walks away
despite a good cast
Chabrol was upstaged by an unknown

IT'S THIS OR UNEMPLOYMENT

the pay is bird shit
the stress comes in heavy doses
having tried just about everything
on the general help page
I'm close to being unemployable
it was the last job of the day
she wasn't where she was supposed to be
I was about to circle again
when I spotted her
rather than go around the circular drive again
I decided to back out
knocking over a metal newspaper box in the process
I then had to hook a U turn on a busy street
she loaded a bunch of clanking trash bags
onto the back seat
running her mouth a mile a minute
since the dispatcher asks all customers
their destinations
passengers assume that we're told too
which isn't the case
so I cut in
attempting to ascertain where we're going

she's complicating the process
I have 15 minutes
to get her there
gas up
& return the cab for the night man
the meter's on
I try to get a coherent answer
she doesn't like my tone I guess
out she goes with her clanking bags
the end of another perfect day

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at that age
Hemingway was liberating France
Céline had 2 major novels out
Bukowski was consolidating
Sinatra was forming his own record company
Bogart was making To Have & Have Not
my father lost everything he had
my mother sat in divorce court
I just can't stop
pounding on these keys
turning out words
for a few crumbs of encouragement

I DIDN'T KNOW

it was all new to me
there was the ad
12 famous writers all grouped together
they had made it
I hadn't read any of them
but that didn't matter
all I had to do
was send them a sample of my writing
they'd let me know
if I had potential
I filled out the application
& sent one of my poems
a couple of weeks later
I heard from them
they could see my potential
once I had completed the correspondence
course
there'd be nothing
standing in my way
the course was only \$600
I didn't send them any money